

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed February 28, 2005 in relation to the above-identified patent application. According to the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-17, 19-21, 23-24, and 28-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Terry et al. (i.e., United States Patent Number 6,342,097). Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-16, 19-21, 23-24, and 28-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeshita et al. (i.e., United States Patent Number 6,057,039). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry et al. (i.e., United States Patent Number 6,342,097). Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-12, and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al. (i.e., United States Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0018129). Claims 5, 10, 18, 22, and 25-27 were objected to only for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable. No other issues were presented.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to secure the allowed subject matter set forth in Claims 5, 10, 18, 22 and 25-27, respectively. In this regard, Claim 1 had been amended to incorporate the limitations of 4 and 5. Similarly, Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of that claim, plus independent Claim 1 and Claim 9. Claim 18 has further been written in independent form to include the limitations of independent Claim 1. Independent Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 19-22 and new independent Claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 23-25 and 27. Dependent Claims 36-

64 have also been added that depend from the independent claims. Specifically, Claims 36-40 depend from independent Claim 35, Claims 41-52 depend from independent Claim 10 and dependent Claims 53-64 depend from independent Claim 18. By virtue of being dependent upon an allowed dependent claim, all dependent claims are thus believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.


Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended herein, are now in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To the extent the Examiner has any questions, requires additional information, or has any suggestions to resolve any outstanding issues that may exist, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's counsel at the number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account #19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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